Unrest in the Uintas

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SUNDAY EXTRA

Forget, for a moment, the Burr Trail, the desert tortoise, BLM wilderness and missiles over Moab.

Look to the northeast: The Uinta Mountains are stealing much of the environmental limelight from southern Utah this year.

Timber vs. wildlife. Oil and gas leasing vs. roadless areas. Grazing vs. backpacking. These are just some of the conflicts facing forest managers, environmentalists, outdoor enthusiasts and those who make part of their living off of Utah's largest and wildest mountain range.

Many of the issues have simmered for years. Others have died but are being resurrected as the Wasatch-Cache and Ashley national forests prepare to revise their Land and Resource Management Plan, also known as the Forest Plan.

On at least one front, the controversies are shaping into an interstate battle, pitting recreational users, primarily from the Wasatch Front, against commodity producers, primarily from Wyoming.

As usual, the Forest Service finds itself somewhere in between, trying to manage its mission of providing raw materials to the nation while allowing for a variety of recreational uses by an ever-increasing number of visitors.

Wasatch-Cache Supervisor Susan Giannettino is careful not to be too specific about what the revisions might be, but Dick Carter, the No. 1 critic of Forest Service policy in the Uintas, hopes the changes are substantive.

"The status quo is terrible," says Carter, coordinator of the Utah Wilderness Association. "If we stay at the status quo much longer, we're doomed. We've got to make dramatic changes."

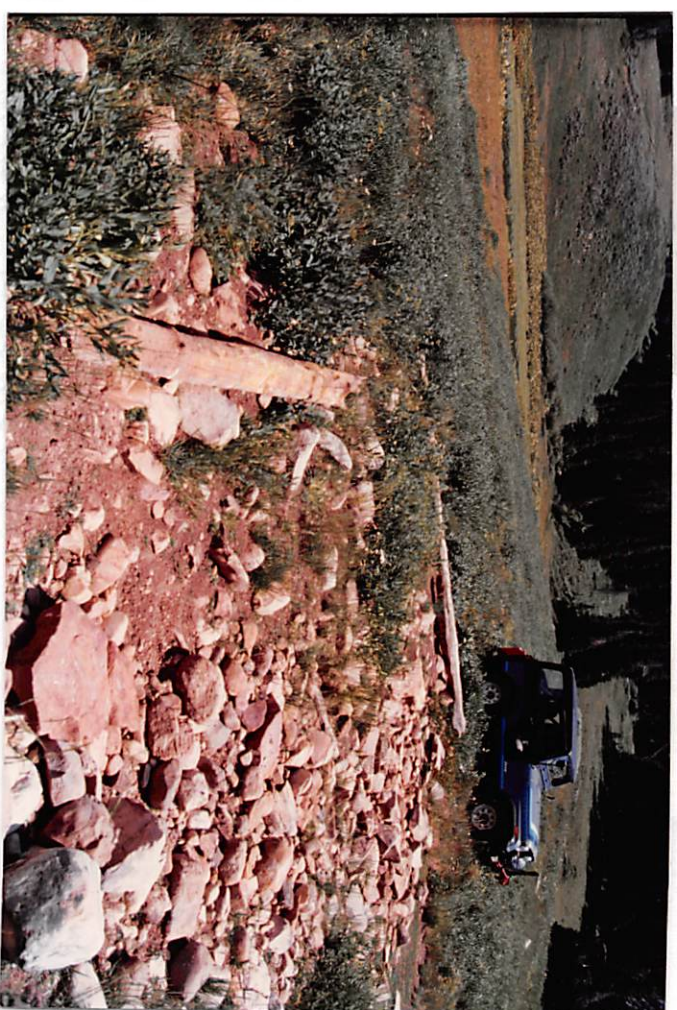
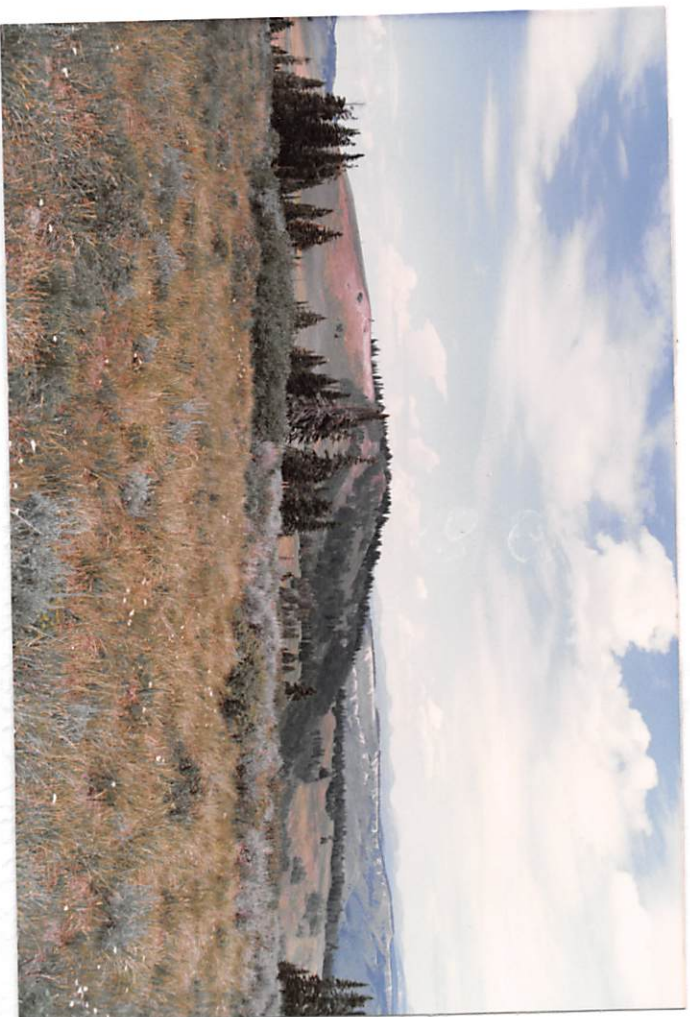
Carter said Forest Service policy is so pro-development that, if it continues, "a kid who's 10 years old today won't recognize the High Uintas by the time he's 25."

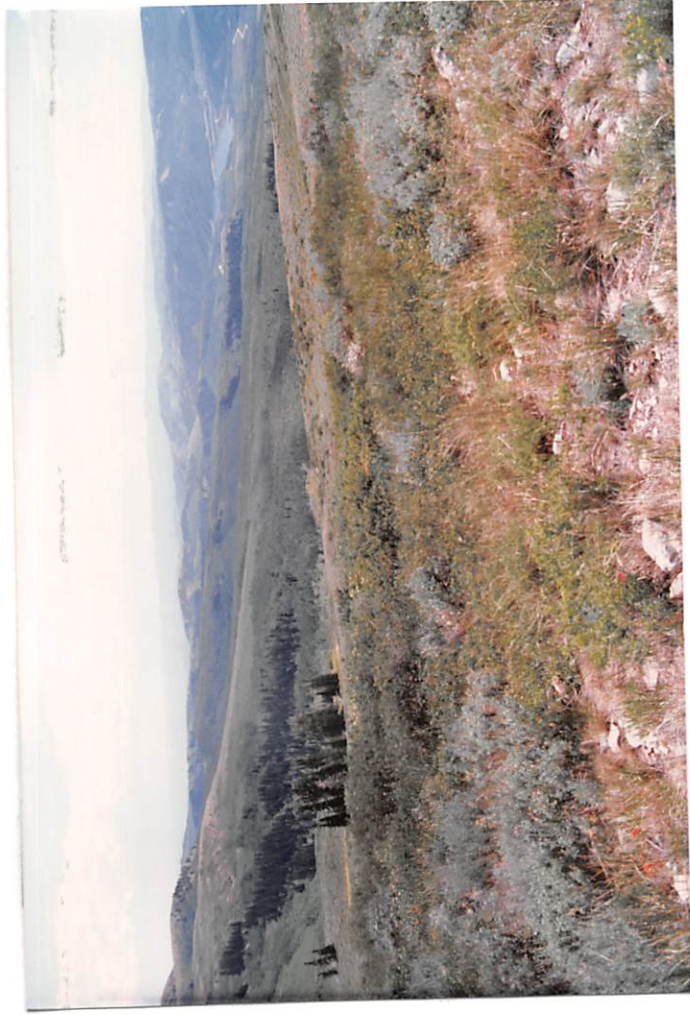
Please see **UINTAS** *on B2*

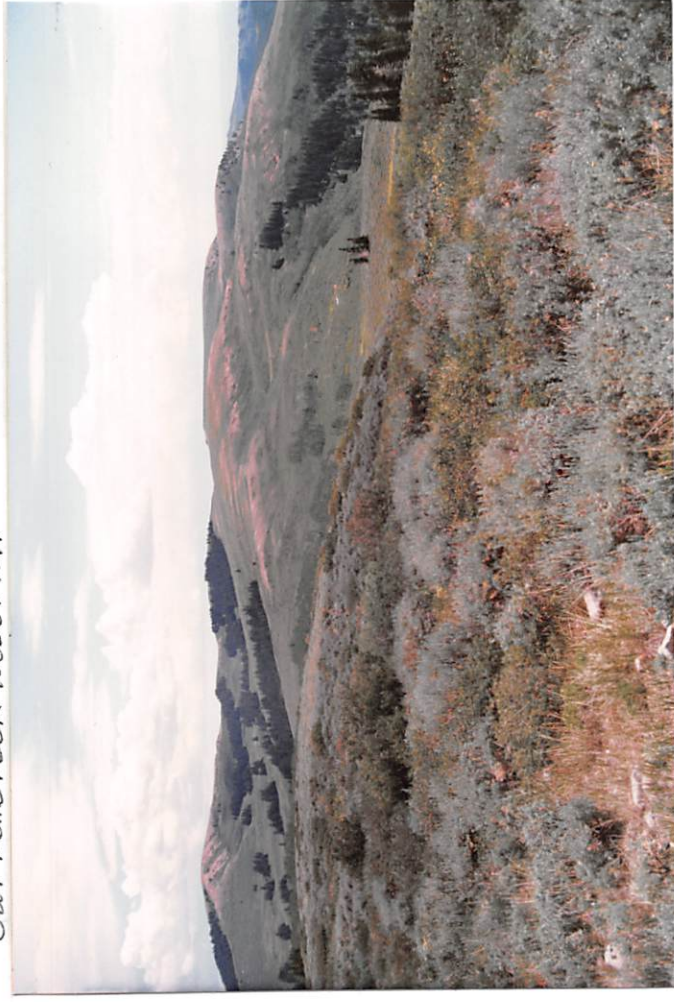
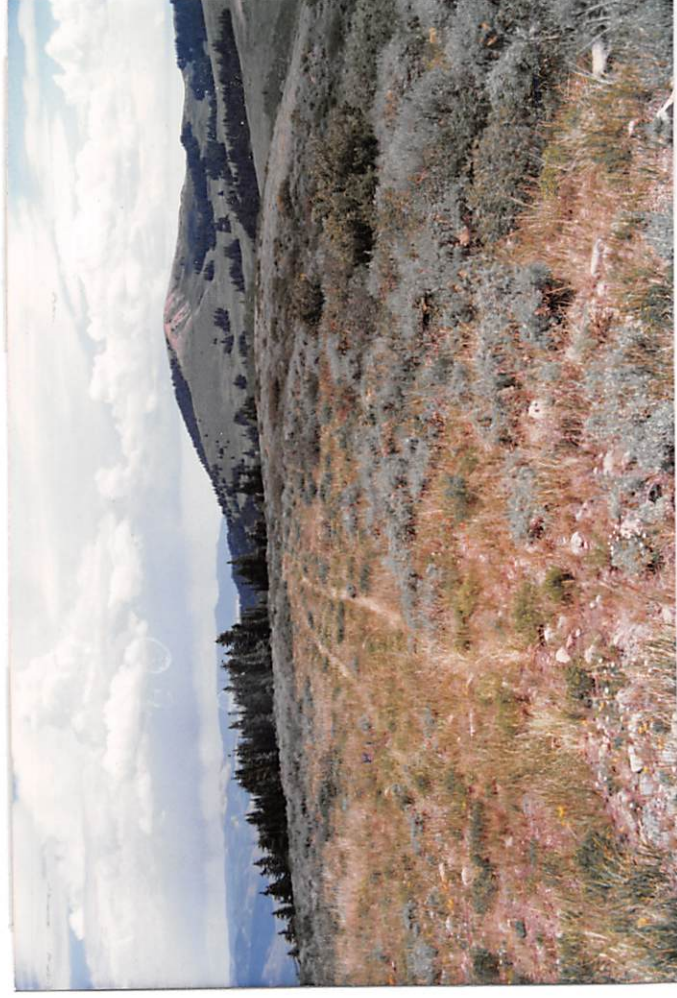
TOM SMART, DESERET NEWS

Tourists park at the Bald Mountain trailhead. Revising area's Forest Plan will likely pit recreational users against commodity producers.

Low Pass

Salt Lick

Corral on Low Pass-Thot tobe 200yrs old →

Corral ↙

Low Pass — looking into Current Creek Reservoir
Currentcreek Reservoir

Low Pass

Looking East off Low Pass between
Current Creek Mt, & West Fork of the Duchesne
& Red Creek Mt is East

Low Pass & Red Creek in Background